AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This version of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claim in the present application.

1.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~Process~~ process for preparing enantiomer-enriched compounds of the formula (VI),

heteroaryl-CH(OH)-CH_2-CH_2-NR^2R^3 (VI)

in which

heteroaryl ~~has the same meaning as that given under formula (I)~~ is a monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic radical having a total of from 6 to 10 ring atoms, where none, one or two ring atoms, selected from the group oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen, is present per cycle and one or two is present in the entire aromatic radical, and where the monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic radical is optionally substituted, once, twice or three times, by radicals which are selected, in each case independently of each other, from the group hydroxyl, C_1-C_8-alkyl, cyano, COOH, COOM, where M is an alkali metal ion or a half equivalent of an alkaline earth metal ion, COO-(C_1-C_4-alkyl), O-(C_1-C_4-alkyl), N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)$_2$, NH-(C_1-C_4-alkyl), NO_2, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, C_1-C_4-fluoroalkyl, $CONH_2$ and CONH-(C_1-C_4-alkyl), and

R^2 and R^3 are, in each case independently of each other, hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_4-C_{14}-aryl or C_5-C_{15}-arylalkyl, or the two radicals R^2 and R^3 are together C_3-C_{12}-alkylene,

comprising:

~~in a step~~ a), converting compounds of the formula (I) ~~in accordance with Claim 1~~,

heteroaryl-CO-CH_2W (I),

in which

heteroaryl ~~is a monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic radical having a total of from 5 to 10 ring atoms, where none, one or two ring atoms, selected from the group oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen, is present per cycle and one or two is present in the entire aromatic radical, and where the monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic radical is optionally substituted, once, twice or three times, by radicals which are selected, in each case independently of each other, from the group hydroxyl, C_1-C_8-alkyl, cyano, COOH, COOM, where M is an alkali metal ion or a half equivalent of an alkaline earth metal ion, COO-(C_1-C_4-alkyl), O-(C_1-C_4-alkyl), N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)$_2$, NH-(C_1-C_4-alkyl), NO_2, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, C_1-C_4-fluoroalkyl, $CONH_2$ and CONH-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)~~defined as in formula (IV), and

W is C(O)YR^1_n, where Y is = oxygen and n is = 1 or Y is nitrogen and n is = 2, or

W is CN, and

R^1 are, in each case independently of each other, hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_4-C_{10}-aryl or C_5-C_{11}-arylalkyl or, when Y is nitrogen, the two radicals R^1 are together C_3-C_5 alkylene,

into enantiomer-enriched compounds of formula (II),

heteroaryl-CH(OH)-CH_2-CO-CH_2W (II)

where, in each case,

heteroaryl and W have the meanings mentioned under formula (I), and

~~in a step~~ b)

i) when W is ~~COOR~~^{1} C(O)YR^1_n where Y is nitrogen, n = 2 and R^1 has the meanings mentioned in formula (I), ~~hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_4-C_{10}-aryl or C_5-C_{11}-arylalkyl,~~

reacting the enantiomer-enriched compounds of formula (II) with amines of the formula (III)

$$HNR^2R^3 \qquad (III)$$

in which R^2 and R^3 have the meaning mentioned under formula (VI), to give enantiomer-enriched compounds of the formula (IV),

$$\text{heteroaryl-CH(OH)-CH}_2\text{-CO-NR}^2\text{R}^3 \qquad (IV)$$

in which heteroaryl, R^2 and R^3 have the previously mentioned meanings, or

ii) when W is CON(R^1)$_2$ and the R^1 radicals are in each case, independently of each other, hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_4-C_{10}-aryl or C_5-C_{11}-arylalkyl, or the two R^1 radicals are together C_3-C_5-alkylene,

converting the enantiomer-enriched compounds of the formula (II) by reacting with amines of the formula (III), into enantiomer-enriched compounds of the formula (IV), and

iii) when W is CN, converting the compounds of the formula (II) directly, by aminolysis/hydrolysis, into compounds of the formula (IV), or converting initially hydrolysis, partial hydrolysis or mixed alcoholysis/hydrolysis, into compounds of the formula (V)

heteroaryl-CH(OH)-CH_2-CO-R^4 (V)

in which heteroaryl has the meaning given under formula (I)

and R^4 is OR^1 or NH_2, where R^1 has the abovementioned meaning, and

converting by amidation into enantiomer-enriched compounds of the formula (IV), and

~~in a step~~ c), converting the enantiomer-enriched compounds of the formula (IV) by reduction, into enantiomer-enriched compounds of the formula (VI) having the abovementioned meaning.

11. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that, in the formulae (III), (IV) and (VI), R^2 and R^3 are, in each case independently selected from, hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, phenyl or benzyl.

12. (Original) Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that compounds of the formula (I) in which W is not CN are obtained by reacting compounds of the formula (VII)

heteroaryl-CO-CH_3 (VII)

in which heteroaryl has the meaning mentioned under formula (I),

with compounds of the formula (VIII),

R^1-O-W (VIII)

in which

R^1 and W have the same meanings as those which were given under the formula (I), with W not being CN, in the presence of a base.

13. (Original) Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that the reduction of compounds of the formula (VI) is effected using complex boron hydrides or aluminium hydrides.

14. (Original) Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that (1S)-3-(methylamino)-1-(2-thiophenyl)-1-propanol, (1R)-3-(methylamino)-1-(2-thiophenyl)-1-propanol, (1S)-3-(dimethylamino)-1-(2-thiophenyl)-1-propanol or (1R)-3-(dimethylamino)-1-(2-thiophenyl)-1-propanol is prepared.

15. (Original) Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that in a further step d),

the enantiomer-enriched compounds of the formula (VI) are reacted, in the presence of base, with compounds of the formula (XI)

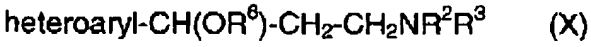
R^6-Hal (XI)

in which

R^6 is phenyl or naphthyl which is optionally substituted, once or more than once, by substituents which are selected, in each case independently of each other, from the group cyano, CO-(C_1-C_{12}-alkyl), O-(C_1-C_{12}-alkyl), (C_1-C_{12}-alkyl), fluorine, chlorine, bromine and C_1-C_{12}-fluoroalkyl, and

Hal is fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine,

to give enantiomer-enriched compounds of the formula (X),



$$\text{heteroaryl-CH(OR}^6\text{)-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{NR}^2\text{R}^3 \qquad \text{(X)}$$

in which heteroaryl, R^2 and R^3 have the meaning given under formula (I) and R^6 has the meaning given under formula (XI).

16. (Original) Process according to Claim 15, characterized in that (S)-N-methyl-3-(1-naphthalenyloxy)-3-(2-thienyl)propylamine and (R)-N-methyl-3-(1-naphthalenyloxy)-3-(2-thienyl)propylamine, or their ammonium salts, are prepared.

17-18 (Cancelled)